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CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

DOW CRAG GULLIES.

DEAR SIR,

The readers of the *Climbers' Club Journal* may remember a letter by Mr. E. A. Baker in Vol. IV., No. 13, and another by Mr. Abraham, with a photograph, in Vol. IV., No. 14, on the subject of the Dow Crag Gullies.

I think the topographical difficulties have now been mostly solved, but as regards the exploration done in the North and Easter Gullies, I personally am still in a hopeless fog.

There are two questions I should like to ask :—

First—When was the North Gully first climbed? On September 8, 1900, having previously read up the literature on the subject in the Wasdale book, I climbed this gully. I could not at the time make out any of the points mentioned in the account of the supposed first ascent of 1895, and I am quite convinced, as apparently was also Mr. Jones (see *Climbing Book*, new edition, p. 222), that the one then climbed was an easy one, either to the North or between the North and Easter Gullies.

Second—Can anyone inform me with certainty when, and by whom, the two branches of the Easter Gully were first climbed? They are quite separate, and both are extremely difficult. I climbed the right one, which apparently had never been ascended completely before—Mr. Jones himself took a zig-zag course on that side, but not in the chimney, and the other two parties who had climbed thereabouts had, *it seemed*, gone up the left branch. To my astonishment, I found it scratched all the way up; yet no complete ascent has

ever been chronicled. This year I went up the left chimney, expecting to find abundant traces of the previous explorations. There was not the faintest sign of its having been climbed before. Is it possible that all the previous parties have selected the right gully, and that the account in Mr. Jones' book is inaccurate?

Faithfully yours,

R. W. BROADRICK.

To the Editor of the CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

DOW CRAG GULLIES.

DEAR SIR,

I am sorry that there is still misunderstanding regarding the Doe Crag climbs, notably the North and Easter Gullies, but a careful perusal of the 2nd edition of Jones' "Rock-Climbing" will clear up several of the difficulties.

This letter, which you have asked me to send to the *Journal*, may dispel some of the others.

The first ascent recorded of the North Gully proper was made in the August of 1901 by Messrs. Claude and Guy Barton, and they climbed by a route which we followed six months later. The way lies up the bed of the gully until directly below the big chock-stones in the upper part of the gully. From a small cave here it is possible to hold the leader none too securely whilst he makes a slight and short traverse to the left below the chock-stones, and then it is not very difficult to climb straight ahead, keeping near the chock-stones. Above this the gully opens out somewhat before the wide scree part is reached. The height of the difficult portion of this pitch is scarcely more than 30 feet.

Messrs. Broadrick had previously been up the North Gully in 1900, but they did not ascend by the pitch. I understand that they descended from the little cave below the pitch, and

made a way up the rocks above some insecure grass ledges away on the left wall of the gully. Some little distance up the wall they were able to make a difficult traverse to the right and gain the top of the pitch. My experience of this route inclines me to the opinion that it is more difficult and dangerous than the pitch proper.

When Messrs. Broadrick visited the gully, the conditions were extremely damp and unsuitable; in such weather the left wall might be advisable.

Regarding the Easter Gully, it is generally known that Messrs. Otto Koecher and Charles Hopkinson first climbed the gully by the extremely difficult second pitch. Their ascent was by the right-hand central crack, during the Easter of 1895.

Their route has since been followed on several occasions, including the ascent of the comparatively easy cave pitch at the foot of the gully. Mr. Jones, in 1898, followed a zig-zag course to left and right of the above-named right-hand central chimney.

There is no recorded ascent of the left-hand central chimney until the ascent of Messrs. Broadrick this year, and theirs is most probably the first ascent of the Easter Gully by this route.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

GEO. D. ABRAHAM.

To the Editor of the CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

STACK GHYLL.

DEAR SIR,

No. 16 of this *Journal* opens with a very interesting article by Mr. L. J. Oppenheimer, in which he describes a series of attempts on Stack Ghyll, at last crowned by success

—attempts which most of us would unhesitatingly regard as explorations, but which he, with characteristic modesty, describes as “failures.”

I should like to add one further word about this Ghyll. My brother and I climbed it in July, the same year that Mr. Oppenheimer achieved his victory. We first—with an eye to something new—tried the left-hand cleft, but found (as indeed we had expected) the cliff so rotten as to be quite unsafe for a party of two, so after climbing the first pitch we reluctantly retraced our steps.

In Stack Ghyll we surmounted the cave pitch in the same way as that described by Mr. Oppenheimer, merely using the threaded rope itself as a handhold, instead of an ice axe. My brother (at that time aged only 15) when following, being shorter in reach, found in the rope a line of less resistance than the rock would show. We have great respect for the last part of the gully.

In notes made at the time, I see that I have classed this gully fully equal to Moss Ghyll in interest, though, unlike the latter, some pitches can be shirked.

In conclusion, I should like to say that, in conquering this gully, Mr. Oppenheimer has introduced to the climbing world a crag on which what has yet to be done may prove very good sport.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

P. S. THOMPSON.

To the Editor of the CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,

May I ask space in the columns of our *Journal* to return my hearty thanks to all those members of the Club who responded to my appeal of August, 1901, on behalf of the fund for the purchase of the Brandlehow estate?

Many of them sent their subscriptions direct to Canon Rawnsley, so that this is the only opportunity I have of thanking them.

You will be interested to know that the total amount subscribed by members of the Club is £188.

Those of us who were privileged to be present on the 16th October at the dedication of the Park to the use of the nation for ever, and to see it in all the glory of vivid autumnal colouring, will agree with me that this latest addition to the possessions of the people is well worthy of all the time, labour, and money spent in acquiring it ; and will join with me in heartily congratulating Canon Rawnsley on the successful completion of his labour of love.

Yours truly,

JAMES M. NICOL.

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